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AUTHOR Clagett, Craig A.
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ABSTRACT

Drawing from annual data provided by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, Prince George's Community College (PGCC) in Maryland conducted a study of the status of first-time, full-time students at PGCC 4 years after entry. In particular, the study examined the number and percentages of students earning certificates and associate degrees and/or transferring to a four-year college or university in Maryland. Study results, covering all nine student cohorts entering PGCC in fall terms 1980 through 1988, included the following: (1) since the mid-1980's, the trend has been toward declining graduation rates accompanied by increasing rates of transfer without first earning an award from PGCC; (2) both black and white student cohorts have experienced declining rates of Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree attainment; (3) for those first-time, full-time students entering PGCC in fall 1988, graduation rates were 15.9% for whites and 5.1% for blacks, all time lows for both groups; (4) the 1986, 1987, and 1988 black student cohorts transferred at a steady rate of 14% to 15%, while white students have shown dramatically higher transfer rates in recent years, increasing from 30% for the 1984 cohort to 40% for the 1988 cohort; and (5) in comparisons with four peer community colleges in Maryland, PGCC's A.A. graduation rate for the 1988 cohort of 10.6% was approximately half that of three of the four peer colleges, and PGCC's in-state transfer rate of 27.9% was lower than all four peer institutions. Seven data tables and graphs are included. (PAA)

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Research Brief RB93-16

May 1993

Craig A. Clagett

PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Office of Institutional Research and Analysis

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TRANSFER AND GRADUATION RATES, FULL-TIME ENTRANTS AFTER 4 YEARS
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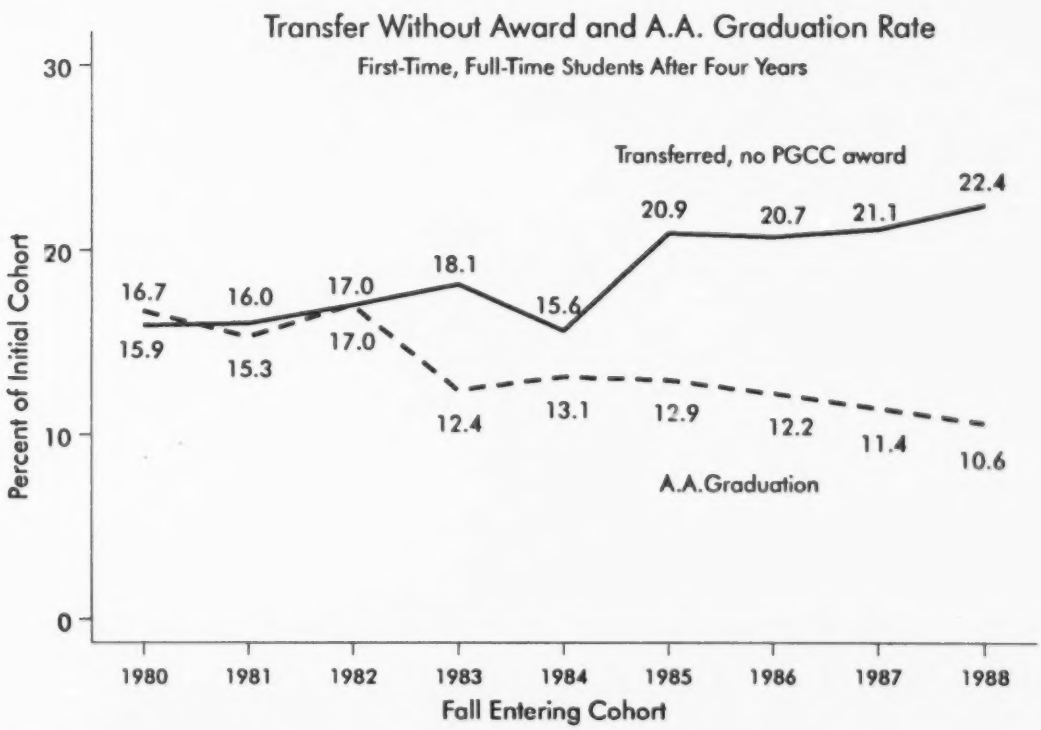
Introduction

To assist institutions in assessing student outcomes, staff at the Maryland Higher Education Commission provide an annual report generated from state enrollment and graduation reporting systems showing the status of students four years after entering the community college as first-time, full-time students. The number and percentage of students earning certificates and Associate degrees, and/or transferring to a four-year college or university in Maryland, are reported. Tables appended to this brief provide the detailed data for cohorts of full-time students entering PGCC in fall terms 1980 through 1988. Separate data are also provided for black and white students.

Transfer and Graduation Trends, 1980-88 Cohorts

As seen in the graph below, since the mid-1980s the trend has been declining graduation rates accompanied by increasing rates of transfer without first earning an award from PGCC:



Both black and white student cohorts have experienced declining rates of A.A. degree attainment. The graduation rates for whites (15.9 percent) and blacks (5.1 percent) in the most recent cohort for which we have data, those entering in Fall 1988, were at all-time lows. Indeed, the graduation rate for black students was half what it was in 1980.

Transfer rates have shown a different pattern. The last three black student cohorts have transferred at a steady rate of 14-15 percent, slightly higher than the rates of earlier cohorts. White students have shown dramatically higher transfer rates in recent years. Forty percent of the 1988 cohort had transferred within four years of entry to PGCC, the highest transfer rate on record and over 10 percentage points above the rate achieved by the 1984 entering cohort.

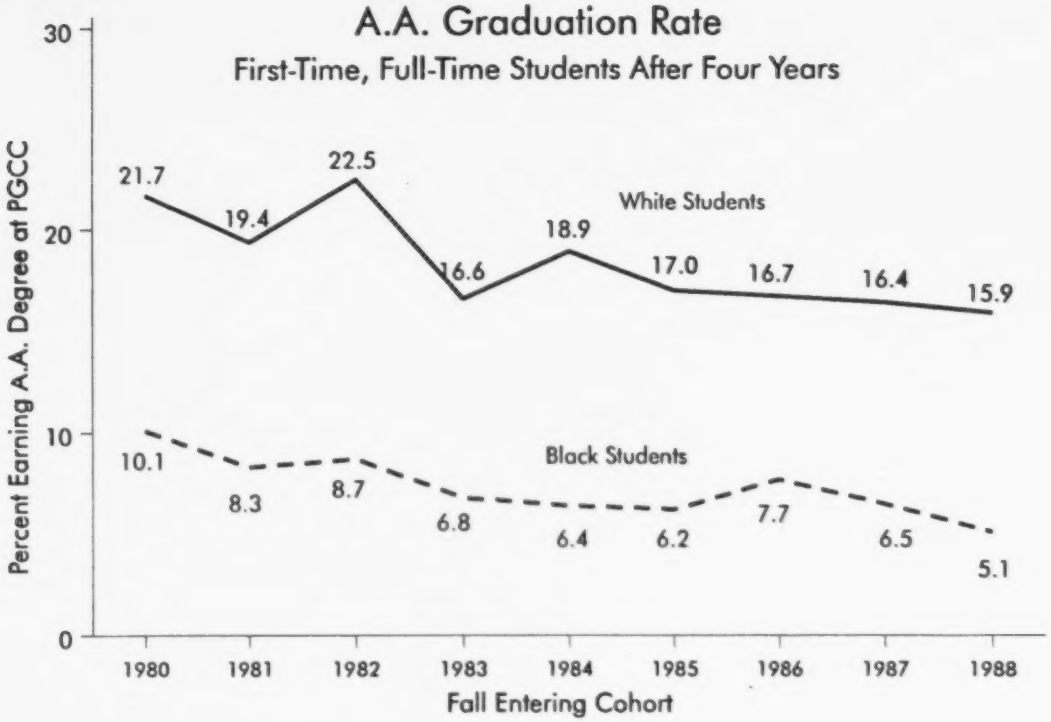
Peer College Comparisons, 1988 Cohort

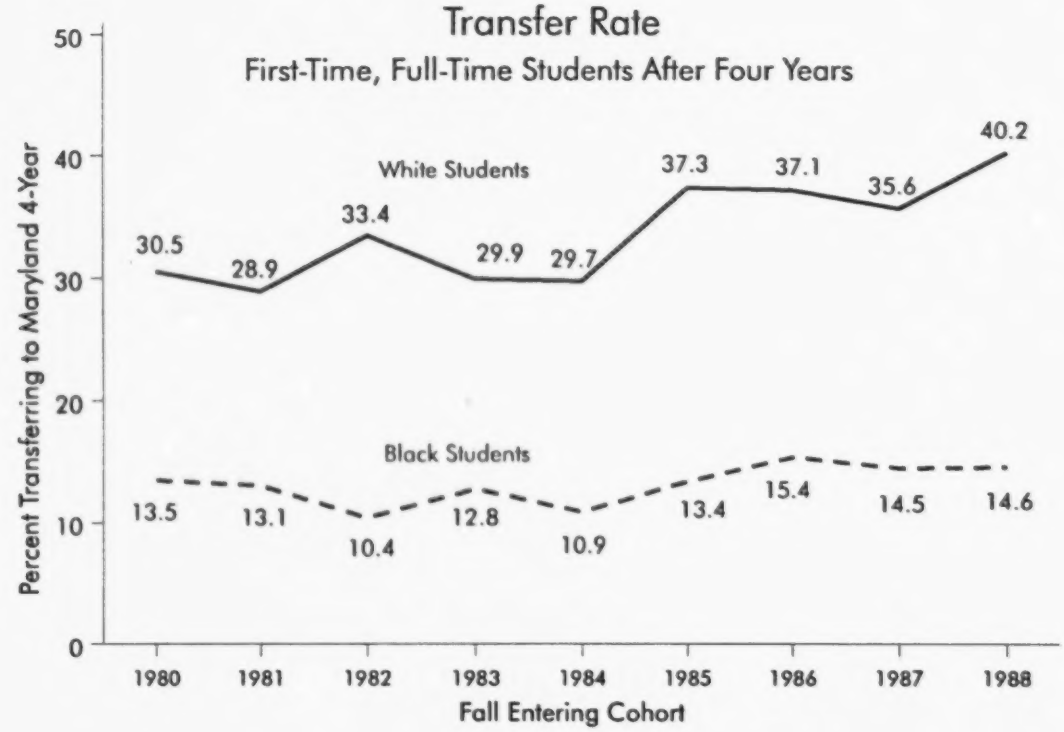
How do PGCC's graduation and transfer rates for full-time students compare to peer community colleges in Maryland? For the 1988 cohort, the A.A. graduation rate of 10.6 percent at Prince George's was higher than Montgomery's but about half that achieved at Anne Arundel, Catonsville, and Essex. PGCC's in-state transfer rate, at 27.9 percent, was lower than those at all four peer colleges:

College	Graduation Rate	Transfer Rate
Anne Arundel	21.0	33.8
Catonsville	19.1	34.3
Essex	26.7	31.1
Montgomery	7.0	30.7
Prince George's	10.6	27.9

Accountability mandates from the federal and state government, as well as accrediting agencies such as Middle States, are stipulating reporting of outcomes such as the above graduation and transfer rates. The research office will promptly publish these data as they become available so the campus community will be informed before required external reports are filed.

Craig A. Clagett
Director
Institutional Research and Analysis


A.A. Graduation Rate
First-Time, Full-Time Students After Four Years
Percent Earning A.A. Degree at PGCC
30
20
10
0
White Students
21.7
19.4
22.5
16.6
18.9
17.0
16.7
16.4
15.9
Black Students
10.1
8.3
8.7
6.8
6.4
6.2
7.7
6.5
5.1
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
Fall Entering Cohort


Transfer Rate
First-Time, Full-Time Students After Four Years
Percent Transferring to Maryland 4-Year
50
40
30
20
10
0
White Students
30.5
28.9
33.4
29.9
29.7
37.3
37.1
35.6
40.2
Black Students
13.5
13.1
10.4
12.8
10.9
13.4
15.4
14.5
14.6
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
Fall Entering Cohort

STATUS OF PGCC FIRST-TIME, FULL-TIME FRESHMEN AFTER FOUR YEARS

ALL STUDENTS

Cohort	Total in Cohort	Transferred No award	Transferred Cert.	Transferred A.A.	Total Transfer	No Transfer Cert.	No Transfer A.A.	Total A.A.s	Any Award
1980	1,860	296	1	146	443	6	164	310	317
		15.9%	0.1%	7.8%	23.8%	0.3%	8.8%	16.7%	17.0%
1981	1,706	273	6	112	391	10	149	261	277
		16.0%	0.4%	6.6%	22.9%	0.6%	8.7%	15.3%	16.2%
1982	1,656	282	1	134	417	8	148	282	291
		17.0%	0.1%	8.1%	25.2%	0.5%	8.9%	17.0%	17.6%
1983	1,452	263	0	82	345	9	98	180	189
		18.1%	0.0%	5.6%	23.8%	0.6%	6.7%	12.4%	13.0%
1984	1,382	215	1	80	296	5	101	181	187
		15.6%	0.1%	5.8%	21.4%	0.4%	7.3%	13.1%	13.5%
1985	1,281	268	1	85	354	3	80	165	169
		20.9%	0.1%	6.6%	27.6%	0.2%	6.2%	12.9%	13.2%
1986	1,300	269	3	95	367	3	64	159	165
		20.7%	0.2%	7.3%	28.2%	0.2%	4.9%	12.2%	12.7%
1987	1,372	290	0	81	371	5	75	156	161
		21.1%	0.0%	5.9%	27.0%	0.4%	5.5%	11.4%	11.7%
1988	1,386	311	0	76	387	1	71	147	148
		22.4%	0.0%	5.5%	27.9%	0.1%	5.1%	10.6%	10.7%

STATUS OF PGCC FIRST-TIME, FULL-TIME FRESHMEN AFTER FOUR YEARS

BLACK STUDENTS

Cohort	Total in Cohort	Transferred No award	Transferred Cert.	Transferred A.A.	Total Transfer	No Transfer Cert.	No Transfer A.A.	Total A.A.s	Any Award
1980	615	48	1	34	83	0	28	62	63
		7.8%	0.2%	5.5%	13.5%	0.0%	4.6%	10.1%	10.2%
1981	564	53	2	19	74	0	28	47	49
		9.4%	0.4%	3.4%	13.1%	0.0%	5.0%	8.3%	8.7%
1982	541	40	0	16	56	0	31	47	47
		7.4%	0.0%	3.0%	10.4%	0.0%	5.7%	8.7%	8.7%
1983	499	48	0	16	64	3	18	34	37
		9.6%	0.0%	3.2%	12.8%	0.6%	3.6%	6.8%	7.4%
1984	548	46	0	14	60	3	21	35	38
		8.4%	0.0%	2.6%	10.9%	0.5%	3.8%	6.4%	6.9%
1985	449	45	1	14	60	0	14	28	29
		10.0%	0.2%	3.1%	13.4%	0.0%	3.1%	6.2%	6.5%
1986	494	52	2	22	76	1	16	38	41
		10.5%	0.4%	4.5%	15.4%	0.2%	3.2%	7.7%	8.3%
1987	550	68	0	12	80	1	24	36	37
		12.4%	0.0%	2.2%	14.5%	0.2%	4.4%	6.5%	6.7%
1988	594	70	0	17	87	0	13	30	30
		11.8%	0.0%	2.9%	14.6%	0.0%	2.2%	5.1%	5.1%

STATUS OF PGCC FIRST-TIME, FULL-TIME FRESHMEN AFTER FOUR YEARS

WHITE STUDENTS

Cohort	Total in Cohort	Transferred No award	Cert.	A.A.	Total Transfer	No Transfer Cert.	A.A.	Total A.A.s	Any Award
1980	1,082	228	0	102	330	6	133	235	241
		21.1%	0.0%	9.4%	30.5%	0.6%	12.3%	21.7%	22.3%
1981	1,015	202	4	87	293	8	110	197	209
		19.9%	0.4%	8.6%	28.9%	0.8%	10.8%	19.4%	20.6%
1982	975	217	1	108	326	6	111	219	226
		22.3%	0.1%	11.1%	33.4%	0.6%	11.4%	22.5%	23.2%
1983	824	185	0	61	246	6	76	137	143
		22.5%	0.0%	7.4%	29.9%	0.7%	9.2%	16.6%	17.4%
1984	718	151	1	61	213	2	75	136	139
		21.0%	0.1%	8.5%	29.7%	0.3%	10.4%	18.9%	19.4%
1985	706	197	0	66	263	3	54	120	123
		27.9%	0.0%	9.3%	37.3%	0.4%	7.6%	17.0%	17.4%
1986	672	181	0	68	249	2	44	112	114
		26.9%	0.0%	10.1%	37.1%	0.3%	6.5%	16.7%	17.0%
1987	696	185	0	63	248	3	51	114	117
		26.6%	0.0%	9.1%	35.6%	0.4%	7.3%	16.4%	16.8%
1988	649	207	0	54	261	1	49	103	104
		31.9%	0.0%	8.3%	40.2%	0.2%	7.6%	15.9%	16.0%